

# Georgia State Patrol

## Policy Manual

SUBJECT <b>SPEED DETECTION DEVICES</b>	POLICY NUMBER <b>6.08</b>
DISTRIBUTION <b>ALL EMPLOYEES</b>	DATE REVISED <b>6/27/2002</b>

### 6.08.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures governing the authorization and use of speed detection devices.

### 6.08.2 Policy

The Georgia State Patrol, in its efforts to save lives by reducing crashes, utilizes speed detection devices to enforce speed limits in this state.

### 6.08.3 Procedures

- A. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is responsible for maintaining a current list of all approved speed detection devices. The specifications for these devices are listed in DPS Rule #570-7. Departmental members are authorized to use only those devices that have been approved by the DPS.
- B. Speed detection devices, unless otherwise designated at the time of issue, are considered personal issue equipment and are to be maintained as such. Each change of possession of the above equipment shall be tracked on an Equipment Status Change Form (DPS-410).
- C. Speed detection devices shall be issued with proper authorization by the North Communications Coordinator under the supervision of the Communications Division Adjutant. These items shall be tracked on an Equipment Status Change Form (DPS-410).
- D. Radio Detection And Ranging (RADAR)
  1. Prior to operating RADAR for the purpose of enforcement action, departmental members shall acquire and maintain certification in the manner required by P.O.S.T.
  2. At the beginning and end of each tour of duty, the member shall check the accuracy of the radar device by use of the tuning forks assigned to that device and the internal circuitry check. The device shall also be tested by comparing the displayed Patrol Speed against the vehicle speedometer. The results of the test shall be recorded on a log prescribed by the department. If the device fails any part of the test, it shall be taken out of service and not returned to service until it has been repaired.

3. Before being placed in service, and annually thereafter, each radar device shall be certified for compliance by technicians possessing a general class radiotelephone license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. The tuning forks associated with each device shall be checked and certified at the same time and kept with the radar at all times.
4. All maintenance and calibration records are to be maintained at the Post level for five years, including the current year.

E. Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR)

1. Prior to operating LIDAR for the purpose of enforcement action, departmental members shall acquire and maintain certification in the manner required by P.O.S.T.
2. Each LIDAR device shall be certified annually for compliance by a certified technician who meets the requirements set forth by the DPS.
3. The LIDAR device shall be tested at the beginning and end of each tour of duty. Testing shall be conducted according to manufacturer's recommendations. The results of the test shall be recorded on a log prescribed by the department. If the device fails any part of the test, it shall be taken out of service and not returned to service until it has been repaired.
4. All maintenance and calibration records are to be maintained at the Post level for five years, including the current year.

F. Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder (VASCAR)

1. Prior to operating VASCAR for the purpose of enforcement action, departmental members shall acquire and maintain certification in the manner required by P.O.S.T.
2. A certified technician who meets the requirements set forth by the DPS shall certify each VASCAR device annually.
3. The VASCAR device shall be calibrated at the beginning and end of each tour of duty. Calibration shall be conducted according to manufacturer's recommendations.
4. All maintenance and calibration records are to be maintained at the Post level for five years, including the current year.

G. Repairs

1. Speed detection devices shall be repaired under the provisions of Georgia Technology Authority Statewide Contract #9999-999-080703. A list of approved vendors under this contract, their location and the specific contract number for each is shown in Exhibit 6.02-1.
2. Speed detection devices under warranty should be returned to the manufacturer for repairs.
3. Devices not under warranty should be repaired, at the post level, by a technician who meets the requirements set forth by the DPS.

4. In the event of failure, the member to which the device is issued, or a member designated by the Post Commander shall present the device to an approved repair facility during regular business hours maintained by the vendor. Utilizing established purchasing policy as developed by the DPS Fiscal Division, the device shall be repaired or replaced, depending upon the estimated cost of repair. If the repair estimate exceeds the purchasing authority of the Post Commander, or the repair estimate approaches the approximate value of the device, the Post Commander shall contact the appropriate Division Communication Coordinator and request direction on repair or replacement.

#### H. Inventory

1. Court requirements necessitate maintenance of a current inventory of all speed-timing devices. The Department Communications Coordinator is responsible for such inventory.
2. Post Commanders upon receipt of a speed timing device shall complete a DPS 410 and forward it to the Communications Coordinator with the following information:
  - a. Make;
  - b. Model;
  - c. Serial Number, and
  - d. DPS property decal.

#### I. Use of speed timing devices

1. Upon completion of trooper school, newly promoted Troopers shall not operate or be issued a speed-timing device for a three-month period. This allows the new trooper to become familiar with their assigned territory and be observant of other violations.
2. Members shall operate only those devices owned by the Department and shall not borrow or operate a unit owned by another law enforcement agency.
3. All devices shall remain at Georgia State Patrol facilities prior to issuance to individual troopers and shall not be loaned to other enforcement agencies.
4. Members shall operate speed-timing devices only in the performance of their official duties.
5. Members shall insure the following information is written on all speeding citations involving the operation of a speed detection device.
  - a. Serial number of the device.
  - b. Time calibration was checked.
  - c. The badge number of any member operating the device if other than the arresting officer.